

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10846

FOR EA/J; OES/APT/SA

DEPARTMENT PASS TO NASA HQ, CODE I

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN SCIENCE SOCIETY'S SPACE EXHIBIT

1. ONCE AGAIN OFFICIALS OF JSS HAVE CALLED UPON SCICOUNS TO LEARN LATTER'S VIEWS ON PROPOSED SPACE EXHIBIT. MR. SASAGAWA'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, MR. AOMORI, THE JSS DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, MR. SHINOTO, AND STAFFER MR. YAMASHITA FORMED LATEST DELEGATION. GROUP TRIED TO PERSUADE EMBOFF THAT GOJ STOOD BEHIND EXHIBIT, SAYING THAT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WILL PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE ITS SUPPORT, THAT MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT IS IN FAVOR OF IT, AND THAT NATIONAL SCIENCE MUSEUM IS WILLING TO COOPERATE IN PREPARATION AND OPERATION OF EXHIBIT. LITTLE RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING WHEN EMBOFF ASKED IF ONE OF THESE AGENCIES COULD BE LOOKED UPON AS COUNTERPART OF USG IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOAN OF NASA EQUIPMENT. THEY ANSWERED THAT ESTABLISHING OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOJ WOULD BE DIFFICULT.

2. JSS REPRESENTATIVES ALSO REPORTED THAT DRAFT CONTRACT HAD BEEN SENT TO CONSULTANT FELIX GULA FOR HIS REVIEW AND SIGNATURE. ACCORDING TO THEM, GULA HAS SAID THAT THERE IS 50 PERCENT CHANCE
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OF GETTING SATURN V FOR EXHIBIT.

3. VISIT WAS FOLLOWED BY CALL ON SCICOUNS BY HIROSHI IMAMURA OF MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, WHO SAID HE WAS ACTING IN "PERSONAL" CAPACITY. HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY MR. SASEGAWA TO EXPRESS MOT SUPPORT FOR SPACE EXHIBIT TO EMBASSY, BUT ADMITTED THAT HE COULD NOT DO SO OFFICIALLY. HE ALSO WENT THROUGH LIST OF AGENCIES

WHICH WERE SYMPATHETIC TO JSS PLAN, BUT ALSO WAS PESSIMISTIC THAT ANY AGENCY WOULD TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEALING OFFICIALLY WITH USG. HE POINTED OUT THAT JSS WAS AN ORGANIZATION UNDER AEGIS (THAT IS, CHARTER AS NON-PROFIT FOUNDATION) OF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, WHEREAS FUNDING OF EXHIBIT WAS TO COME FROM JAPAN SHIP BUILDING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION (A FOUNDATION CHARTERED BY MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND HEADED BY MR. SASEGAWA ALSO), AND MAJOR GOJ INTEREST IN SPACE RESIDED IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY. TO GET ALL THREE AGENCIES TO COORDINATE OFFICIALLY WAS NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE, HE STATED. HE ALSO PRESENTED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT EXHIBIT SHOULD INCLUDE JAPANESE SPACE ARTIFACTS BUT RECOGNIZED THAT THIS APPROACH WAS NOT POPULAR WITH MR. SASEGAWA.

4. IMAMURA APPEARED TO BE SEEKING SOME MEANS TO ENLIST GOJ SUPPORT OF SPACE EXHIBIT WHICH WOULD FALL SHORT OF OFFICIAL POSTURE (BECAUSE OF INTERNAL COMPLICATIONS NOTED ABOVE) AND YET WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO USG. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THAT THOUGHT WAS BEING GIVEN TO HAVING GOJ SCIENCE COUNSELOR IN WASHINGTON (NAGARA) MAKING AN APPROACH TO DEPT. OR NASA WHICH WOULD HAVE APPEARANCE OF BEING OFFICIAL BUT WHICH WOULD NOT BE SUPPORTED BY ANY OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION. EMBOFF EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO USG. MEETING CONCLUDED ON INCONCLUSIVE NOTE, WITH EMBOFF STATING THAT PROBLEM OF INVOLVING GOJ IN SPACE EXHIBIT WAS ONE THAT USG COULD NOT SOLVE AND THAT JSS AND GOJ WOULD HAVE TO REACH SOME CONSENSUS BEFORE USG COULD PARTICIPATE IN PROPOSED EXHIBIT.
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MANSFIELD

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